

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:DGBROWN:RD

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203459

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: JAPAN-KOREA RELATIONS

REF: SEOUL 6143

1. AMB. YASUKAWA CALLED ON HABIB MORNING OF SEPT 16 TO INFORM HIM OF GOJ'S WILLINGNESS TO HAVE AMB USHIROKU INITIAL DURING SHIINA VISIT A "PAPER" WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN INTENT OF TANAKA'S LETTER TO PARK. IN DISCUSSING TEXT, COPY OF WHICH GIVEN HABIB, YASUKAWA NOTED THERE WERE TWO POINTS WHICH MIGHT GIVE KOREANS DIFFICULTY: A) USE OF WORD "MORAL" IN DESCRIBING JAPAN'S RESPONSIBILITY. WHILE THIS MAY TROUBLE ROK, GOJ UNWILLING TO DROP THAT ADJECTIVE; B) PHRASE STATING THAT INVESTIGATION HAD NOT YET REVEALED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN CHOSEN SOREN AND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. RE LATTER, HABIB COMMENTED THAT, WHILE US HAD NO INTENTION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATION OF WORDING, HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED PHRASE WAS NOT REALLY NECESSARY AND COULD BE DROPPED IF IT WERE THE ONLY POINT PREVENTING AGREEMENT ON TEXT. YASUKAWA SAID HE BELIEVED USHIROKU HAD SHOWN TEXT
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TO KOREANS, BUT DID NOT HAVE CABLE CONFIRMING THAT AND

DID NOT KNOW OF KOREAN REACTION.

2. YASUKAWA SAID FONMIN KIM HAD COMMENTED TO AMB USHIROKU THAT PRESIDENT PARK WAS BECOMING IMPATIENT AND ASKED USG HELP IN AVOIDING PRECIPITOUS ACTION BY ROK. HABIB SAID

THAT AMB SNEIDER HAD DONE JUST THAT IN INITIAL MEETING WITH KIM. HABIB URGED GOJ TO KEEP DIALOGUE GOING IN ORDER TO FORESTALL KOREAN ACTIONS AND TO WORK CONSTANTLY FOR SOLUTION AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, HOPEFULLY BY SEPT 18.

3. WHEN YASUKAWA SAID KOREANS HAD BEEN TALKING OF "AMERICAN MEDIATION PLAN", HABIB SAID HE HAD SEEN HAPDONG STORY ON SUBJECT. HABIB SAID THAT, IF KOREANS NEED TO USE COSMETIC REFERENCES TO A US ROLE IN ORDER TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION IN KOREA, IT WOULD NOT BE IN EITHER US OR GOJ INTEREST TO REFUTE THE KOREAN COMMENTS PUBLICLY. CONSEQUENTLY HE TOLD YASUKAWA THAT SHOULD PRESS INQUIRE ABOUT THE "AMERICAN MEDIATION PLAN", THE DEPT WILL REPLY ONLY THAT US HAS BEEN URGING BOTH SIDES TO FIND AMICABLE SOLUTION AND THAT BOTH SIDES REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.

4. YASUKAWA REPORTED THAT SHIINA'S EXPRESSED DESIRE TO PAY VISIT TO MADAM PARK'S GRAVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVING IN SEOUL HAD BEEN APPRECIATED AND ACCEPTED BY KOREANS.

5. AT SAME MEETING, YASUKAWA INFORMED HABIB THAT KOREAN EVENTS HAD NOW FORCED KIMURA TO DELAY DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON, NECESSITATING CANCELANATION OF SEPT 19 MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY. HE SAID KIMURA NOW HOPES TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON IN LATE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 20. DEPT IS WORKING ON ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

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